

Reading for the Young Folks.

BY MABLE DIGGS.

HOW IT CAME.

The rose was as fair as the lily white,
Yet she sadly drooped on her stem,
Though all would declare
That her beauty was rare
And they called her a priceless gem.

"Ah me!" she sighed as she swayed in the wind,
"Tis a lonely life that I lead;
I would rather some knight
Would shorten my plight
Be he come from mountain or mead."

Just then Sir Breeze whispered soft in her ear,
"My love you are fair," said he,
You are Purity's self,
And were I an elf,
Your lover I'd surely be.

And the fair rose trembled—she almost blushed,
Then she felt the bitter tears start,
For her lover had fled;
In the garden bed
Next morn was a bleeding heart.

Wichita, Kans. —A. McADAM PARKHURST.

To the Young Folks.

Do you know, my little friends, I really do not think that you write for our page as often as you should. It would be so much jollier if we could have two or three letters each week from our friends over the State; I believe that you would all take a more lively interest in the page if you would contribute to it once in a while yourselves. I am sure we all enjoyed reading the nice letters from Theo Nora Ransom, of Neutral, Kans.; Bessie Shearer, of Frankfort; Ruth M. Kellogg, of Fay; Blanche C. Dunsmore, of Thayer; Helen Shea, of Rochester; A. McAdam Parkhurst, of Wichita, and many others, and we most sincerely hope that they will be kind enough to write us again. I know that there are many who say: "I would write, but I don't know anything to write about." But if we only think, we will see that is a very poor excuse, for there is so much in life that is interesting to write about. For instance, we are all interested in your life at home, how you occupy your time, all about your debates in school, your sisters and brothers, and, in fact, whatever interests you will interest us. If, however, you will kindly take the time to answer the following question, we will be much pleased:

"What is meant by Imperialism?"

Now, my dear little friends, if you cannot contribute anything to our page this week, be sure to do so next week, for if you do not you will very much disappoint your friend,
MABLE L. DIGGS.

For Our Page.

Our readers will be glad to know that we are soon to have another story from Miss Lenore Doster, who wrote that delightfully entertaining story, "Tom, a Kansas Boy," which we read with so much pleasure some months ago. Also one from her sister, Irma Doster.

In the not far future we are to have a symposium on the pro's and con's of "Why I Am An Expansionist." Those who will contribute to the symposium are the Misses Nellie Breidenthal, Daisy Hoffman, Vida Bush, Alida Otis, Anna Wardall, Mable Boyd, Louise Lewelling, Miss Householder, Lenore Doster, and many others.

Miss Perle Haley has kindly consented to contribute one of her charming stories to our page once a month.

Miss Emily King, a young High School graduate of Topeka, who is visiting in Washington, will write "A Winter in Washington."

Ray and Max Wardall, the two young sons of Alonzo Wardall who are making a tour of the world, will write on "A Trip Across the Continent."

So, you see, we will be well supplied with good reading, for which we should be very grateful to our friends who are going to do so much to make our page interesting and instructive.

Paragraphs.

The first of April is not only "April Fool's Day" in the United States, but in every country of Europe the custom is quite common of sending people on empty errands and laughing at them.

Don't you wish that we could reform Kansas weather as well as Kansas politics? What lovely Easters we would make; then we would always be sure of pleasant days for the exhibition of our Easter gowns.

When you write your next letter, please tell us whether you would like to have nothing but stories on your page, or would you prefer a variety—say a little article now and then on the questions of the day? I know that stories are very fascinating

reading, but it really is essential that we know something of what is happening in the great world, even if we are only children, and there is surely no better time than the present for the study of passing events.

I wonder how many of our girls take proper care of their hair. The first requisite is cleanliness; the hair should be washed once every month in soft, warm water with pure castile soap, or Packer's tar soap, or the white of an egg—the yolk, too, if desired; if the latter is used, one must take pains to rinse all the egg out of the hair or the head will remain sticky, which of course isn't pleasant. The hair should then be trimmed, cutting off all split ends. A good brush and comb are very necessary. A comb that is not too sharp is the best; never use a fine-tooth comb, as it is very injurious to the scalp. The brush should have long bristles. Brush the hair every night and morning for ten minutes; try and brush the scalp as much as possible, and not the hair, as any rough treatment is very bad for the hair. Never use a comb on the hair except to clear out the tangles.

At the last session of the legislature there was a bill passed making the Traveling library of Kansas a part of the State library. By the provisions of this act any community desiring books can have them sent by merely paying the freight. It is a very good law, and I hope that your papas and mammas will take advantage of it, that you may have access to as many good books as you can read. The following is a list of some very good books which, if you have not read, I hope that you will do so at your earliest opportunity: "David Copperfield," "Hard Times," "Little Women," "Little Lord Fauntleroy," "Consuelo," "That Lass o' Lowrie's," "Donald and Dorothy," "Papa's Own Girl," "On the Heights," "Les Misérables," "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," "The Silence of Dean Maitland," "Hoosier School Master," and "Guy Mannering."

There is a story of the origin of the word Yankee to the effect that it is an Indian corruption of the word English—Yengles, Yangles, Yankles, and finally Yankee. Mr. Fitz-Gerald says, in writing of the word: "It grew into general use as a term of reproach thus: About the year 1713 one Jonathan Hastings, a farmer, at Cambridge, in New England, used the word Yankee as a cant word to express excellence, as a Yankee (good) horse, Yankee eider, and so on. The students at the college, having frequent intercourse with Jonathan, and hearing him employ the word on all occasions when he desired to express his approbation, applied it sarcastically, and called him Yankee Jonathan. It soon became a slang phrase among the collegians to designate a simple, awkward person; thence it spread over the country till from its currency in New England it was at length taken up and applied to New Englanders indiscriminately."

About Famous Old Songs.

Familiar as we are with the song, "Auld Lang Syne," there are very few people who know much of its origin. This, however, is not strange, as it may be said to be veiled in mystery, so long ago was it written. The song has been popular all over the English-speaking world for over a hundred years. It has been commonly supposed that Burns was the author of the poem, it having been published in many of his books of poems, but that has been proven to be a mistake. He did, however, change the phrasing of the original into "the tender and beautiful phrase so peculiarly pathetic and Scotch." The following stanza was written by Sir Robert Ayton in 1570:

"Should old acquaintance be forgot
And never thought upon,
The flame of love extinguished
And fairly past and gone?
Is thy kindly heart now grown so cold,
In that loving breast of thine,
That thou canst never once reflect
On old lang syne?"

The song was sung in many different ways years before Burns heard it, and, as he says: "It had never been in print nor even in manuscript until I took it down from an old man's singing." "Auld Lang Syne" was a phrase in use in very early times, and can be traced to the days of Elizabeth in connection with the social feelings and the social gatherings of the Scot. The song as we have it now, improved by the genius of Burns, was first published in 1794. It would be well if there were space to print the poem here, as there is perhaps

not one of us who could repeat it right off, much as we love it. The melody to which the lyric is sung was composed by Wm. Shield in 1782.

"The Last Rose of Summer" is an ancient Irish melody which Thomas Moore rewrote and published in 1813; later it was introduced into the opera "Martha."

Of the origin of "The Star Spangled Banner" we are more familiar. We have often read in our histories how Francis Key, while retained on the British fleet during the attack on Fort M'Henry, composed the lines under the inspiration of that midnight siege. On his return he read to his comrades, "Oh, say, can you see by the dawn's early light," etc. They were captivated by its eloquence; one of them brought out his flute and some old music, playing until he finally struck one that he fitted to the words. Listening comrades caught the strains until the camps were ringing with that stirring tune of which we are so fond and proud.

"America" was composed by the Rev. Samuel Francis Smith in 1832, and was written to the tune of "God Save the Queen," to which it is now sung. Rev. Mr. Smith was a college classmate of Oliver Wendell Holmes, and it was of him that the witty Mr. Holmes wrote in that delightful poem entitled "The Boys:"

"And there's a nice youngster of excellent pith,
Fate tried to conceal him by naming him Smith;
But he shouted a song for the brave and the free,
Just read on his medal, 'My country, of thee!'"

Dr. George F. Root wrote "The Battle Cry of Freedom," also "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys Are Marching," "Just Before the Battle, Mother," and "The Vacant Chair."

"Dixie," that favorite air of the Southern people, was written in 1859 by Daniel Emmett, a member of a minstrel company. While the boys in blue marched to the tune of "John Brown's Soul is Marching On," the boys in gray were given fresh spirit by the lively strains of "Way Down South in Dixie Land," etc.

Every one should keep familiar with old songs, as they are as much a part of the history of the times in which they were popular as the literature of those times. Young folks should not only have in their repertoire the popular songs of the day, but also such songs as "My Old Kentucky Home," "Poor Old Joe," "Old Uncle Ned," "O, Susanna," "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground," "Swanee River," "Kathleen Mavourneen," etc. I am sure if these songs were sung oftener our "old folks at home" would much appreciate it.

"Let me but make the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes the laws."

For the Complexion.

Don't drink tea or coffee.
Drink pure water.
Eat grapes, apples, raisins and figs.
Eat a few salted almonds daily.
Don't eat too much animal food.
An egg or two a day, soft boiled, instead of meat.
Eat an orange every day or so.
Walk two or three miles a day.
Bathe the whole body daily in tepid water.

Don't fret, don't worry; be calm and quiet.

Follow the above, and you will be perfectly strong, healthy, beautiful and live to great age.—M. Felix Chaleux.

Preserving Eyesight

Up to 40 years of age, bathe the eyes twice daily with cold water.

Avoid reading when lying down or when mentally and physically depressed.

When the eyes are tired, rest them by looking at objects from a distance.

Old persons should avoid reading much by artificial light; be guarded as to diet, and avoid sitting up late at night.

Avoid stimulants and drugs which affect the nervous system, especially when they are known to exert an injurious influence.

After 50 years of age bathe the eyes morning and evening with water so hot that you would wonder how you would stand it; follow this with cold water, that will make a glow with warmth.

Do not give up in despair when you are informed that a cataract is developing; remember that in these days of advancing surgery it can be removed with little danger to the vision.—Up-to-date.

Good Advice to Boys and Girls.

You must not go into debt. Avoid debt as you would the devil. Make it a fundamental rule: No debt—cash or nothing.

Make few promises. Religiously observe the smallest promise. A man who means to keep his promises cannot afford to make many.

Be scrupulously careful in all statements. Aim at accuracy and perfect frankness, no guesswork—either nothing or absolute truth.

When working for others, sink yourself

out of sight; seek their interest. Make yourself necessary to those who employ you, by industry, fidelity and scrupulous integrity. Selfishness is fatal.

Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody expects of you. Keep your own standard high. Never excuse yourself to yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself; be lenient to everybody else.

Concentrate your force on your own business; do not turn off. Be constant, steadfast, persevering.—Beecher.

BUY GOODS IN CHICAGO



Have you tried the Catalogue system of buying EVERYTHING you use at Wholesale Prices? We can save you 15 to 40 per cent. on your purchases. We are now erecting and will own and occupy the highest building in America, employ 2,000 clerks filling country orders exclusively, and will refund purchase price if goods don't suit you.

Our General Catalogue—1,000 pages, 16,000 illustrations, 60,000 quotations—costs us 72 cents to print and mail. We will send it to you upon receipt of 15 cents, to show your good faith.

MONTGOMERY WARD & CO.
MICHIGAN AVE. AND MADISON ST.
CHICAGO.



THE GREAT SOUTHWEST SYSTEM

...Traversing the States of...

KANSAS MISSOURI NEBRASKA
COLORADO ARKANSAS
AND THE INDIAN TERRITORY

Five (5) Daily Passenger Trains are run on this line in each direction between Kansas City and St. Louis.

The famous Hot Springs of Arkansas are reached only by this line.

H. C. TOWNSEND,
G. P. & T. A., St. Louis, Mo.
F. E. NIPPS, Agent, Topeka, Kas.

PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOURIST EXCURSIONS

CALIFORNIA



Leave Chicago every Thursday via Colorado Springs and scenic route to San Francisco and Los Angeles.
Southern Route leaves Chicago every Tuesday via Kansas City, Fort Worth and El Paso to Los Angeles.

These Excursion Cars are attached to Fast Passenger Trains, and their popularity is evidence that we offer the best.
Accompany these Excursions and save money, for the lowest rate tickets are available in these

POPULAR PULLMAN TOURIST CARS

For full description of this service and the benefits given its patrons, see your local ticket agent, or address JOHN SEBASTIAN, G. P. A., CHICAGO, ILL.